



NEWS RELEASE

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LAKELAND AREA TROOPER GARNERS TROOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

~ Godino receives distinguished award for life-saving actions ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida Governor and Cabinet honored Sgt. Mary Godino today when they named her the Florida Highway Patrol's 2012 Trooper of the Year. Godino is assigned to FHP's Troop C in Lakeland, Fla. She has been with the Patrol for 17 years. Her quick actions helped save a man's life.

"We are honored to recognize Sgt. Mary Godino as the 2012 Trooper of the Year," stated Attorney General Pam Bondi, who sponsored the Trooper of the Year resolution, signed by the governor and Cabinet members. "Sgt. Godino's unwavering commitment to protecting Floridians, as exemplified by her courageous efforts to rescue an unresponsive driver, is truly extraordinary."

While traveling to work Nov. 9, 2011, Godino noticed a stopped school bus, a cloud of dust and people waving their arms. At the scene, Godino determined a fertilizer truck had been unable to stop and had overturned onto its left side. She found the truck driver trapped inside his vehicle and crawled into the cab of the truck, along with a nurse who had stopped to help. She stopped his head from bleeding and held his head and neck to keep his airway open until emergency medical services arrived. Upon arrival, the fire department and the wrecker service extracted the driver. Without Godino's quick response and decisive actions, there could have been grave consequences.

"Sgt. Godino put herself in harm's way to render aid to a victim of a traffic crash," said Col. David Brierton, director of the Florida Highway Patrol. "She demonstrated the Patrol's core values and her commitment to the residents of Florida."

The Florida Petroleum Council developed the *Trooper of the Year* award program more than 40 years ago to recognize troopers who go above and beyond the call of duty.

Godino's photograph is available on the Patrol's website at <http://www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/TOM/2011to2013/Nov2011.htm>.

FHP recruiters are seeking qualified individuals who are ready to join the ranks of the Patrol. Individuals interested in learning more about becoming a trooper should visit www.BeATrooper.com and www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/academy/.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov, follow us on Twitter @[FDHSMV](https://twitter.com/FDHSMV) or find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FDHSMV).

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